

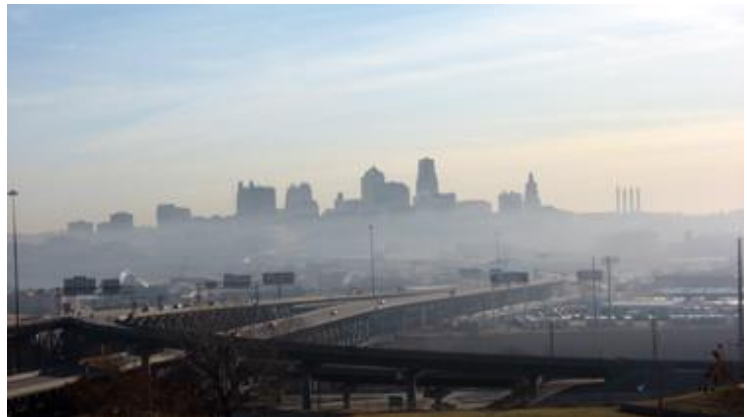
What Affects Air Quality?

Air quality where you live can vary depending on how much air pollution, like ground-level ozone is located in your community, how much pollution is carried into your community on the wind, and by weather conditions.

Ground-level ozone forms when two key pollutants, nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) “cook in the sun.” These emissions come from a wide variety of sources, including mobile sources (vehicles and lawn mowers), point sources (power plants), and area sources (solvent and paint fumes).

Weather plays a big role in the levels of ground-level ozone in our community. Sunlight and heat, for example, promote ground-level ozone formation. Light winds and temperature inversions can keep pollution from dispersing, and depending on its direction, the wind can bring in more pollution – sometimes from hundreds of miles away.

[More about the elements of weather that affect air quality](#)



Temperature inversion, Kansas City Area, winter 2006